

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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FOR ASSISTANT SECY MAYNES

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 11839 ACTION SECSTATE USIA WASHDC  
USUN NY BONN GENEVA DATED JUL 19:

QTE: UNCLAS LONDON 11839

USIA FOR IPS, IEU, IAA; DEPT. FOR AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANREW)

SUBJECT: BBC-TV (CHRISTOPHER WAIN, DEFENSE CORRESPON-  
DENT) INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG  
AT HEATHROW AIRPORT, LONDON, JULY 19, 1977.

QUESTION: MR. AMBASSADOR, WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION TO  
THE NEWS FROM SALISBURY LAST NIGHT?

YOUNG: WELL, THAT THIS IS ANOTHER ONE OF A LONG HISTORY  
OF UNPREDICTABLE IAN SMITH REACTIONS WHICH WILL DO  
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING FOR THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE, NOR WILL  
IT IN ANY WAY SETTLE THE SITUATION.

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QUESTION: WHEN YOU SAY IT WAS UNPREDICTABLE, DOES THAT  
MEAN THAT IT TOOK YOU COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE?

YOUNG: I THINK SO, BUT NOTHING IAN SMITH DOES TAKES  
ONE COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE BECAUSE YOU HAD TWELVE YEARS  
OF DOING THINGS THAT WERE ESSENTIALLY DESPERATION MOVES,  
BUYING TIME FOR HIMSELF PERSONALLY, BUT NOT REALLY

CONSIDERING THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA BLACK OR WHITE.

QUESTION: NOW HE SAYS THAT WHAT HE IS SEEKING AT THE MOMENT IS A MANDATE TO BE ABLE TO GO IN AND CREATE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. DO YOU ACCEPT THAT?

YOUNG: I DON'T ACCEPT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

QUESTION: NO, DO YOU ACCEPT THAT HE IS RIGHT TO GO FOR A MANDATE?

YOUNG: I DON'T KNOW REALLY ENOUGH ABOUT THE INTERNAL DYNAMICS OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT ON HIS POLITICAL TACTICS IN TERMS OF WHAT HE NEEDS FROM HIS PARTY OR FROM THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE. THE THING IS THAT HIS MANDATE WILL COME FROM ABOUT 200,000 PEOPLE IN A COUNTRY OF 7 MILLION, AND THAT'S NOT A MANDATE WHICH CAN PRODUCE PEACE OR JUSTICE.

QUESTION: SO IN THE BROAD TERM THEN, WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE RESULT OF AN ELECTION WITHIN RHODESIA AT THE MOMENT?

YOUNG: I'M AFRAID THAT IT WILL LEAD TO AN ESCALATION ON ALL SIDES IN THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS. I THINK THERE HAS BEEN SOME RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THE NATIONALISTS, THE BLACK NATIONALISTS. YOU'VE NOT HAD VIOLENCE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CITIES, NOT BECAUSE THE NATIONALIST FORCES ARE NOT MOVING ALL ACROSS RHODESIA, BUT BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN A MEASURE OF RESTRAINT, I THINK IN PART PRODUCED BY HOPE THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND THE NATIONALIST LEADERS HAVE HAD IN THE POSSIBILITIES OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IN A SENSE THIS MAY PRODUCE A DESPERATE ESCALATION ON THE PART OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AT A TIME WHEN I THINK CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT HAVE MOVED US IN A MUCH MORE POSITIVE DIRECTION.

QUESTION: DO YOU REGARD THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE THEN AS BEING NOW VIRTUALLY DEAD?

YOUNG: NO, I DON'T. I STILL VIEW THIS AS THE ONLY REAL HOPE FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. I MEAN THE KIND OF THING THAT IAN SMITH IS TALKING ABOUT IS NOT GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING FOR ANYBODY. IT CAN ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE. THAT IF THERE IS TO BE SOME REASON AND SANITY BROUGHT TO THE SITUATION IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE TO COME FROM FORCES OTHER THAN IAN SMITH, AND THAT MIGHT INCLUDE, AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM,

THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND POSSIBLY EVEN THE  
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA.

ONE FINAL QUESTION, MR. AMBASSADOR: IF YOU'RE RIGHT, IF  
THERE IS A LARGE SCALE ESCALATION OVER THE NEXT THIRTY  
DAYS, WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE RESULT OF THAT IN  
RHODESIA?

YOUNG: MORE PEOPLE LEAVING AND MORE DISILLUSIONMENT  
AND DISCOURAGEMENT, AND FROM WHAT I  
GATHER YOU HAD THIS TWELVE YEAR STRUGGLE WITHOUT A  
GREAT DEAL OF HATRED OF BLACKS FOR WHITES, AND THAT'S  
WHAT MAKES THE POSSIBILITY OF A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY  
STILL PRESENT. I THINK THE FURTHER IAN SMITH GOES AND  
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THE MORE HE ESCALATES HIS OWN POLITICAL SHENANIGANS  
AND THE MORE THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION ESCALATES THE  
MORE DIFFICULT IT'S GOING TO BE TO MAINTAIN A MULTI-  
RACIAL SOCIETY. I THINK A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY IN  
RHODESIA AND AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE IS REALLY  
IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF AFRICA. IT'S PROBABLY LEAST  
IMPORTANT FOR THE WEST, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE  
CONTINUED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF STABLE STATES IN  
ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE, BOTSWANA AND THE SOLUTION TO THIS  
PROBLEM IS IN MANY RESPECTS A KEY TO THE FUTURE OF ALL  
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, SO I DON'T THINK THAT WE CAN ABANDON  
OUR RATIONAL ATTEMPTS TO PRODUCE CHANGE TOWARD A MULTI-  
RACIAL SOCIETY, WHICH IS A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY WHICH IS  
INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS A GOVERNMENT GENUINELY  
REPRESENTING ALL OF THE PEOPLE. I THINK ANYTHING  
SHORT OF THAT IS GOING TO CONTINUE CIVIL STRIFE AND  
CONTINUE TO PRODUCE DIFFICULTIES THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

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## Message Attributes

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